REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-43 are pending in this application. Claims 33-43 are allowed. Claims 6, 11, and 18-25 are objected to. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-17, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0028730 A1 ("Nahata") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,717,776 ("Watanabe"). Claims 27-30 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,475,460 ("Stephenson"). Claim 31 is being cancelled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in light of the above recited amendments and below recited remarks. It is respectfully submitted that the no new matter has been added by the present amendments.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-17, and 26

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-17, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2001/0028730 A1 ("Nahata") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,717,776 ("Watanabe"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The present application is directed to an iris capture device having expanded capture volume. More specifically, there is disclosed:

> The iris image capture device having an expanded capture volume includes two lens systems and two illuminators. The lens systems include a first lens system and a second lens system that are offset from one another in one or more of a X-axis, a Y-axis, and a Z-axis and arranged to capture an iris image of at least one of a left eye and a right eye. ***The illuminators include a first illuminator positioned outboard of the second lens system and a second illuminator positioned outboard of the first lens system.*** The first illuminator and the second illuminator are offset from one another in one or more of a X-axis, a Y-axis, and a Z-axis for illuminating an iris of at least one of a left eye and a right eye. The first lens system operates with the first illuminator and the second lens system operates with the second illuminator to illuminate an iris of an eye and capture an image of the iris (Application, Summary of the Invention)."

Nahata discloses a multiple view angles camera including a narrow view angle lens, a cylinder lens, and an image sensor.

Watanabe discloses a certification card producing apparatus. The apparatus includes a photo mechanism having a prism, a lens, and an illumination lamp. Specifically, Watanabe discloses:

> "[d]uring the eyesight test, the light from the illumination lamp is reflected from the disk, passes through the prism, and illuminates the eyeball of the renewer. The reflected light from the eyeball is reflected from the prism, passes through the onefold lens, and focuses on the contact sensor (Watanabe, Col. 6, lines 39-45).

Importantly, the combination of Nahata and Watanabe does not teach or suggest ***first and second illuminators each positioned outboard of the opposing lens system***, as recited by claim 1 of the present application. In the Office Action, the Examiner states, "The limitations [of claim 1] involving illuminators cannot be found in the Nahata reference, however the Watanabe reference clearly shows an illumination means, as Element 97, in Fig. 6." However, Fig. 6 of Watanabe discloses only a single illuminator 97 and a single lens 94. Nevertheless, the Examiner asserts that Watanabe suggests a system that includes two lenses, one for each eye on a person's face. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that even if Watanabe is construed to suggest two lenses, Watanabe still does not teach or suggest two illuminators. ***Rather, at best, Watanabe suggests only a single illuminator that is positioned between the two lenses with respect to the "x" axis.***

Under the Examiner's own reading of Watanabe, it must be construed to suggest only a single illuminator. Specifically, in the Response to Applicant's Arguments, the Examiner states that, in Watanabe, "illuminator 97 would be to the right of the left eye system shown in Fig. 6, and conversely illuminator 97 would be to the left of the right eye system shown in Fig. 6 (Office Action, Page 3, Paragraph 3)." Thus, it is clear that, according to the Examiner, Watanabe suggests that the illuminator 97 is positioned between the two lenses with respect to the "x" axis. Applicants fail to understand why, if the illuminator is positioned between the two lenses on the x axis, it would be necessary to have two illuminators, particularly since the location of the two eyes on a person's face are so close

together. Rather, the present invention discloses the use of two illuminators when each of the two lenses are between the two illuminators on the "x" axis.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-17, and 26 are patentable at least by reason of their dependency.

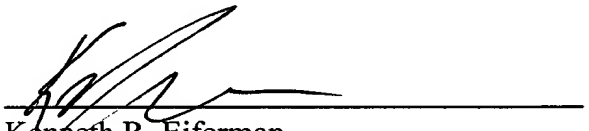
Claims 27-30 and 32

Claims 27-30 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,475,460 ("Stephenson"). Independent claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 31, which the Examiner has stated would make such claims allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Date: June 23, 2004



Kenneth R. Eiferman
Registration No. 51,647

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439